



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST-CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2004.

BY

A. L. Hamner

Atty. Docket #: 5899*13

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Lothar Eggeling *et al.*

SERIAL NO: 09/914,006

ART UNIT: 1652

FILED: January 7, 2002

EXAMINER: C. Fronda

FOR: "Method for Microbially Producing L-Valine"

**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed April 5, 2004, the time for a response to which has been extended to and through September 7, 2004. September 5, 2004, the original due date with a two month extension of time for reply was a Sunday. Monday September 6, 2004 was a holiday (Labor Day) on which the Patent and Trademark Office was closed. This response is timely filed on September 7, 2004, the next succeeding day the Patent and Trademark Office is open.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this paper.